(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of complaints of such modifications have been received from Bhopal, Jaipur and Kolkata regions, during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the then Assistant Commissioners of the respective regions have shielded these Principals, instead of initiating action against this act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Head Office has informed that it has not received any complaint of modifications made in their official residences by Principals, except in the case of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Naseerabad (Rajasthan) in Jaipur Region, where a minor alteration of temporary 4 inch wall with a tin shed in the back side of the official accommodation was carried out by the Principal at her own cost keeping in view her safety and security for which formal approval has not been considered necessary.

Shorthand Examination by NOS

†2441. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Open School has been entrusted with the work of conducting examinations for Shorthand, in Voluntary Institutions under the Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not entrusting the same to Central Board of Secondary Education, which is fully competent in executing this job;

(c) whether the syllabus meant for students of National Open School has also been made mandatory for these Institutions, and restrictions have been imposed on them for teaching of books, pertaining to other methods of Shorthand; and

(d) what is Government's policy regarding use of books for teaching Shorthand subject?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) as a part of its activities offers shorthand course in combination with academic subjects at Senior Secondary level through its Accredited Institutions. Similarly, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also included shorthand as one of the vocational subjects at plus two level for which as per the Boards policy it has recommended books for use by the students.

Central Schools in NER

2442. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools in the seven sister States of the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) whether the schools maintain the same standards, as prevail in the rest of the country; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to open more central schools in the area to maintain standards of education at par with the rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The State-wise number of Central Schools in NER is as under:-

SI. No.	Name of State	No.ofKVS
1	Meghalaya	7
2	Manipur	5
3	Mizoram	1
4	Arunachal Pradesh	10
5	Nagaland	6
6	Tripura	5
7	Assam	42
	TOTAL:	76